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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, NOVEMBER 17, 2000

APPLICATION OF

MOUNTAINET TELEPHONE  
COMPANY

CASE NO.PUC000286

For amendment of its certificate  
of public convenience and necessity  
to provide local exchange  
telecommunications services and  
for a certificate of public  
convenience and necessity to  
provide interexchange  
telecommunications  
services

ORDER FOR NOTICE AND HEARING

On October 23, 2000, MountaiNet Telephone Company ("MountaiNet" or "Applicant") filed an application to amend its certificate of public convenience and necessity for local exchange telecommunications services and for a certificate for interexchange telecommunications services with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") to provide local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Applicant also requested authority to price its interexchange telecommunications services on a competitive basis pursuant to § 56-481.1 of the Code of Virginia.

In MountaiNet Telephone Company, Case No. PUC000135, Final Order of October 19, 2000, the Commission granted the Applicant certificate of public convenience and necessity No. T-510 to provide local exchange telecommunications services in the counties of Lee, Wise, Dickenson, Russell, Smyth, and that portion of Scott County that is presently served by Sprint. In this application, MountaiNet seeks expanded authority to provide local exchange telecommunications services throughout Virginia.

NOW UPON CONSIDERATION of the application, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that MountaiNet's application should be docketed; that the Applicant should give notice to the public of its application; that the Commission Staff should conduct an investigation into the reasonableness of the application and present its findings in a Staff Report; that a public hearing should be convened to receive evidence relevant to MountaiNet's application to amend its certificate to provide local exchange telecommunications services; and, if substantive objections are received, evidence shall be received at the public hearing with regard to MountaiNet's application for a certificate to provide interexchange telecommunications services.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) This case is docketed and assigned Case No. PUC000286.
- (2) A public hearing for the purpose of receiving evidence relevant to MountaiNet's application for amendment of its

certificate to provide local exchange telecommunications services is scheduled for February 13, 2001, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia. If substantive objections to MountaiNet's application for a certificate to provide interexchange telecommunications services are received on or before December 29, 2000, the Commission will also hear evidence on this issue at the February 13, 2001, public hearing. If no such substantive objections are received on or before December 29, 2000, the Commission may grant MountaiNet's requested certificate to provide interexchange telecommunications services without conducting a hearing.

(3) On or before December 8, 2000, the Applicant shall complete publication of the following notice to be published on one (1) occasion as classified advertising in newspapers having general circulation throughout the Applicant's proposed service territory:

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY  
MOUNTAINET TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR  
CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND  
NECESSITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE AND  
INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES  
THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
CASE NO. PUC000286

On October 23, 2000, MountaiNet Telephone Company ("MountaiNet" or "Applicant") filed an application with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") to amend its certificate of public convenience and

necessity ("certificates") to provide local exchange telecommunications services and requested authority to provide interexchange telecommunications services throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. In its application, the Applicant also requested authority to price its interexchange telecommunications services on a competitive basis pursuant to § 56-481.1 of the Code of Virginia. The Commission has previously granted the Applicant a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide local exchange telecommunications services in the counties of Lee, Wise, Dickenson, Russell, Smyth, and that portion of Scott County that is presently served by Sprint. In this application, MountaiNet seeks expanded authority to provide local exchange telecommunications services throughout Virginia.

A public hearing will be convened on February 13, 2001, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia, to hear evidence relevant to MountaiNet's application for a certificate to provide local exchange telecommunications services statewide. The Commission will hear evidence on MountaiNet's application for a certificate to provide interexchange telecommunications services at the February 13, 2001, public hearing only if substantive objections to this portion of the application are filed on or before December 29, 2000. If no such substantive objections are received, the Commission may grant the certificate to provide interexchange telecommunications services without a hearing.

Copies of the application are available for public inspection between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the Commission's Document Control Center located on the first floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia, or can be ordered from Blane Clark, Executive Vice President,

MountaiNet Telephone Company, P.O. Box 488,  
Gate City, Virginia 24251.

Any person desiring to comment in writing on MountaiNet's application for certificates to provide local exchange telecommunications services or interexchange telecommunications services may do so by directing such comments on or before December 29, 2000, to the Clerk of the Commission at the address set out below. Any person desiring to make a statement at the public hearing concerning MountaiNet's application for a certificate to provide local exchange telecommunications services statewide need only appear in the Commission's second floor courtroom at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the hearing and identify himself or herself as a public witness to the Commission's Bailiff.

Any person who expects to submit evidence, cross-examine witnesses, or otherwise participate in the proceeding as a Protestant, pursuant to Commission Rule 4:6 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, should promptly obtain a copy of the Order for Notice and Hearing from the Clerk of the Commission for complete details of the procedural schedule and instructions on participation.

Individuals with disabilities who require an accommodation to participate in the hearing should contact the Commission at least seven (7) days before the scheduled hearing date at 1-800-552-7945 (voice) or 1-804-371-9206 (TDD).

All written communications to the Commission concerning MountaiNet's application should be directed to Joel H. Peck, Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218, and must refer to Case No. PUC000286.

MOUNTAINNET TELEPHONE COMPANY

(4) On or before December 8, 2000, Applicant shall provide a copy of the notice contained in ordering paragraph (3) to each local exchange telephone carrier certificated in Virginia and each interexchange carrier certificated in Virginia by personal delivery or first-class mail, postage prepaid, to the customary place of business or residence of the person served. Lists of all current local exchange and interexchange carriers in Virginia are attached to this Order as Appendices A and B, respectively.

(5) On or before January 12, 2001, the Applicant shall file with the Commission proof of notice and proof of service as ordered herein.

(6) On or before December 29, 2000, the Applicant shall prefile with the Commission an original and fifteen (15) copies of any additional direct testimony it intends to present at the public hearing. Copies shall also be served on any person who files a Notice of Protest.

(7) On or before December 29, 2000, any person desiring to participate as a Protestant as defined in Rule 4:6 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules") shall file an original and fifteen (15) copies of a Notice of Protest as provided in Rule 5:16(a) and shall serve a copy of the same

on Blane Clark, Executive Vice President, MountaiNet Telephone Company, P.O. Box 488, Gate City, Virginia 24251.

(8) On or before December 29, 2000, any person wishing to lodge an objection to MountaiNet's application for a certificate to provide interexchange telecommunications services shall file an original and fifteen (15) copies of its objection in writing with Joel H. Peck, Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. Written objections shall refer to Case No. PUC000286 and shall state with specificity why a hearing is necessary. If substantive objections are received, the Commission will hear evidence relevant to this portion of the application at the February 13, 2001, public hearing.

(9) Any person desiring to comment in writing on MountaiNet's application for a certificate to provide interexchange telecommunications services may do so by directing such comments on or before December 29, 2000, to the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Written comments must refer to Case No. PUC000286.

(10) Any person desiring to comment in writing on MountaiNet's application for amendment of its certificate to provide local exchange telecommunications services may do so by directing such comments on or before December 29, 2000, to the Clerk of the Commission at the address set out above. Comments

must refer to Case No. PUC000286. Any person desiring to make a statement at the public hearing concerning the application for amendment of the certificate for local exchange telecommunications services need only appear in the Commission's second floor courtroom at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the hearing and identify himself or herself to the Bailiff as a public witness.

(11) Any person who expects to submit evidence, cross-examine witnesses, or otherwise participate in the proceeding as a Protestant pursuant to Rule 4:6 shall file on or before December 29, 2000, an original and fifteen (15) copies of its Protest, referring to Case No. PUC000286, and shall on the same day mail a copy thereof to Blane Clark, Executive Vice President, MountainNet Telephone Company, at the address identified above and to any other Protestants. The Protest shall set forth (i) a precise statement of the interest of the Protestant in the proceeding; (ii) a full and clear statement of the facts which the Protestant is prepared to prove by competent evidence; and (iii) a statement of the specific relief sought and the legal basis therefor. Any corporate entity that wishes to submit evidence, cross-examine witnesses, or otherwise participate as a Protestant must be represented by legal counsel in accordance with the requirements of Rule 4:8 of the Commission's Rules.



(12) On or before December 29, 2000, each Protestant shall file with the Clerk of the Commission an original and fifteen (15) copies of the prepared testimony and exhibits the Protestant intends to present at the hearing and shall on the same day mail a copy of the same to MountaiNet and other Protestants. Service upon MountaiNet shall be made at the address set forth above.

(13) The Commission Staff shall analyze the reasonableness of MountaiNet's application and present its findings in a Staff Report to be filed on or before January 29, 2001.

(14) On or before January 29, 2001, if necessary, the Commission Staff may file with the Clerk of the Commission an original and fifteen (15) copies of any prepared testimony and exhibits it intends to present at the public hearing. A copy of the Staff's direct testimony shall be mailed to counsel for the Applicant and to each Protestant.

(15) On or before February 5, 2001, the Applicant shall file with the Clerk of the Commission an original and fifteen (15) copies of any testimony it expects to introduce in rebuttal to any direct prefiled testimony of Staff and Protestants. A copy of the rebuttal testimony shall be mailed to Staff and each Protestant by overnight delivery.

(16) The Applicant shall respond to written interrogatories or data requests within seven (7) days after the

receipt of the same. Protestants shall provide to the Applicant, other Protestants, and Staff any workpapers or documents used in preparation of their prefiled testimony, promptly upon request. Except as so modified, discovery shall be in accordance with Part VI of the Rules.

AN ATTESTED COPY hereof shall be sent by the Clerk of the Commission to: Blane Clark, Executive Vice President, MountainNet Telephone Company, P.O. Box 488, Gate City, Virginia 24251; John F. Dudley, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Division of Consumer Counsel, Office of Attorney General, 900 East Main Street, Second Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23219; and the Commission's Divisions of Communications, Public Utility Accounting, and Economics and Finance.